

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

### Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for collecting tax information by a tax information requestor comprising the steps of:  
connecting electronically said tax information requestor to an electronic intermediary ~~and/or~~  
~~to a tax data provider;~~  
collecting electronically at least one of an electronic tax return ~~and/or~~ or tax data of a taxpayer from said electronic intermediary; and  
~~collecting electronically an electronic tax return and/or tax data from said tax data provider~~  
performing a check of said taxpayer by said tax information requestor using said electronic tax return or tax data collected electronically,  
wherein said check is not used to compute taxes of said taxpayer, wherein said tax information requestor is not a taxing authority, and wherein said electronic intermediary stores said electronic tax return.
2. (currently amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein said tax information requestor is electronically connected to said electronic intermediary using an electronic link, ~~and wherein said tax information requestor is electronically connected to said tax data provider using an electronic link.~~
3. (original) A method as in claim 2, wherein said electronic link comprises telephone communication equipment.
4. (original) A method as in claim 2, wherein said electronic link comprises an electronic data network.

5. (currently amended) An ~~apparatus~~ method as in claim 4, wherein said electronic data network is the Internet.

6. (currently amended) An ~~apparatus~~ method as in claim ~~[[1]]~~35, wherein said tax data provider is an employer, a partnership, a bank, a savings and loan institution, a mortgage institution, a credit card bureau, a thrift institution, a securities brokerage firm, a mutual fund holding institution, a charity, the Internal Revenue Service, or a taxing authority.

7. (original) A method as in claim 1, wherein said tax data is a payroll statement, a bank statement, a savings and loan statement, a mortgage statement, a credit card bureau statement, a thrift institution statement, a brokerage account statement, a mutual fund statement, a charity statement, or a statement relevant for tax purposes.

8. (canceled)

9. (original) A computer system for performing the method of claim 1.

10. (original) A computer-readable medium comprising a computer program for performing the method of claim 1.

11. (currently amended) An apparatus for collecting tax information by a tax information requestor comprising:

means for connecting electronically said tax information requestor to an electronic intermediary ~~and/or to a tax data provider~~;

means for collecting electronically at least one of an electronic tax return ~~and/or~~ or tax data from said electronic intermediary; and

~~means for collecting electronically an electronic tax return and/or tax data from said tax data provider~~

means for performing a check of said taxpayer by said tax information requestor using said electronic tax return or tax data collected electronically,

wherein said check is not used to compute taxes of said taxpayer, wherein said tax information requestor is not a taxing authority, and wherein said electronic intermediary stores said electronic tax return.

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium embodying a computer program for collecting tax information by a tax information requestor, said computer program comprising code segments for:

connecting electronically said tax information requestor to an electronic intermediary ~~and/or to a tax data provider;~~

collecting electronically at least one of an electronic tax return ~~and/or~~ or tax data of a taxpayer from said electronic intermediary; and

~~collecting electronically an electronic tax return and/or tax data from said tax data provider~~  
performing a check of said taxpayer by said tax information requestor using said electronic tax return or tax data collected electronically,

wherein said check is not used to compute taxes of said taxpayer, wherein said tax information requestor is not a taxing authority, and wherein said electronic intermediary stores said electronic tax return.

14. (canceled)

15. (withdrawn) A method for collecting tax information by a tax information distributor comprising the steps of:

connecting electronically said tax information distributor to a plurality of electronic intermediaries and/or to a plurality of tax data providers;

collecting electronically electronic tax returns of taxpayers and/or tax data of taxpayers from said electronic intermediaries;

collecting electronically electronic tax returns of taxpayers and/or tax data of taxpayers from said tax data providers;

assembling collected electronic tax returns of taxpayers and/or tax data of taxpayers to obtain assembled tax information of taxpayers.

16. (withdrawn) A method as in claim 15, wherein said tax information distributor is electronically connected to said electronic intermediary using an electronic link, and wherein said tax information distributor is electronically connected to said tax data provider using an electronic link.

17. (withdrawn) A method as in claim 16, wherein said electronic link comprises telephone communication equipment.

18. (withdrawn) A method as in claim 16, wherein said electronic link comprises an electronic data network.

19. (withdrawn - currently amended) An ~~apparatus~~ method as in claim 18, wherein said electronic data network is the Internet.

20. (withdrawn - currently amended) An ~~apparatus~~ method as in claim 15, wherein said at least one tax data provider is an employer, a partnership, a bank, a savings and loan institution, a mortgage institution, a credit card bureau, a thrift institution, a securities brokerage firm, a mutual fund holding institution, a charity, the Internal Revenue Service, or a taxing authority.

21. (withdrawn) A method as in claim 15, wherein said tax data is a payroll statement, a bank statement, a savings and loan statement, a mortgage statement, a credit card bureau statement,

a thrift institution statement, a brokerage account statement, a mutual fund statement, a charity statement, or a statement relevant for tax purposes.

22. (withdrawn) A method as in claim 15, wherein said assembled tax information comprises demographics and/or statistics regarding said taxpayers.

23. (withdrawn) A method as in claim 15, further comprising the steps of:  
connecting electronically said tax information distributor to a tax information requestor;  
providing electronically a portion of said assembled tax information to said tax information requestor.

24. (withdrawn) A method as in claim 23, wherein said tax information distributor is electronically connected to said tax information requestor using an electronic link.

25. (withdrawn - currently amended) An ~~apparatus~~ method as in claim 24, wherein said electronic data network is the Internet.

26. (withdrawn) A computer system for performing the method of claim 15.

27. (withdrawn) A computer-readable medium comprising a computer program for performing the method of claim 15.

28. (withdrawn) An apparatus for collecting tax information by a tax information distributor comprising:

means for connecting electronically said tax information distributor to a plurality of electronic intermediaries and/or to a plurality of tax data providers;

means for collecting electronically electronic tax returns of taxpayers and/or tax data of taxpayers from said electronic intermediaries;

means for collecting electronically electronic tax returns of taxpayers and/or tax data of taxpayers from said tax data providers;

means for assembling collected electronic tax returns of taxpayers and/or tax data of taxpayers to obtain assembled tax information of taxpayers.

29. (withdrawn) An apparatus as in claim 28, further comprising the steps of:

means for connecting electronically said tax information distributor to a tax information requestor;

means for providing electronically a portion of said assembled tax information to said tax information requestor.

30. (withdrawn) A computer-readable medium embodying a computer program for collecting tax information by a tax information distributor, said computer program comprising code segments for:

connecting electronically said tax information distributor to a plurality of electronic intermediaries and/or to a plurality of tax data providers;

collecting electronically electronic tax returns of taxpayers and/or tax data of taxpayers from said electronic intermediaries;

collecting electronically electronic tax returns of taxpayers and/or tax data of taxpayers from said tax data providers;

assembling collected electronic tax returns of taxpayers and/or tax data of taxpayers to obtain assembled tax information of taxpayers.

31. (withdrawn) A computer-readable medium as in claim 30, further comprising code segments for:

connecting electronically said tax information distributor to a tax information requestor;

providing electronically a portion of said assembled tax information to said tax information requestor.

32. (withdrawn) A method for collecting tax information by a tax information requestor comprising the steps of:

connecting electronically said tax information requestor to a tax information distributor;  
collecting electronically assembled tax information of at least one taxpayer from said tax information distributor, said assembled tax information of at least one taxpayer based on at least one electronic tax return of said at least one taxpayer and/or tax data of said at least one taxpayer obtained electronically by said tax information distributor.

33. (withdrawn) A computer system for performing the method of claim 32.

34. (withdrawn) A computer-readable medium comprising a computer program for performing the method of claim 32.

35. (new) A method as in claim 1, further comprising:

connecting electronically said tax information requestor to a tax data provider; and  
collecting electronically tax data from said tax data provider.

36. (new) An apparatus as in claim 11, further comprising:

means for connecting electronically said tax information requestor to a tax data provider;  
and  
means for collecting electronically tax data from said tax data provider.

37. (new) A computer-readable medium as in claim 13, further comprising code segments for:

connecting electronically said tax information requestor to a tax data provider; and  
collecting electronically tax data from said tax data provider.